

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. - 16. (Canceled)

17. (Currently Amended)

~~An optical system as claimed in claim 1,~~

comprising:

a light source;

an object lens for focusing emitted light from the light source onto an optical recording medium;

first optical separating means which is provided between the light source and the object lens and which separates an optical path of reflected light from the optical recording medium, from an optical path of the emitted light from the light source;

second optical separating means which separates the reflected light from the optical recording medium via the first optical separating means into a first group of light and a second group of light; and

an optical detector for receiving the first group of light and the second group of light;

wherein an optical signal strength of the first group of light is larger than an optical signal strength of the second group of light, and

wherein the system is constituted such that a tracking error signal by a differential phase method, a tracking error signal by a push-pull method and a data signal recorded on the optical recording medium are detected from the first group of light while a focusing error signal is detected from the second group of light, and

wherein the second optical separating means comprises a step-shaped dielectric film that includes a plurality of four-step units, each of the plurality of four-step units including a first step having a first length, a second step having a

second length shorter than the first length, a third step having the first length, and a fourth step having the second length.

~~17.~~ 18. (Currently Amended) An optical system as claimed in claim ~~[[1]] 17,~~ wherein the second optical separating means includes a holographic optical element that is divided into four regions by two divided lines respectively in parallel with a radial direction and a tangential direction of the optical recording medium, and

wherein pitches of the lattices of a first two of the four regions are different from pitches of the lattices of the other two of the four regions.

~~18.~~ 19. (Currently Amended) An optical system ~~as claimed in claim 1,~~ comprising:

a light source;

an object lens for focusing emitted light from the light source onto an optical recording medium;

first optical separating means which is provided between the light source and the object lens and which separates an optical path of reflected light from the optical recording medium, from an optical path of the emitted light from the light source;

second optical separating means which separates the reflected light from the optical recording medium via the first optical separating means into a first group of light and a second group of light; and

an optical detector for receiving the first group of light and the second group of light;

wherein an optical signal strength of the first group of light is larger than an optical signal strength of the second group of light, and

wherein the system is constituted such that a tracking error signal by a differential phase method, a tracking error signal by a push-pull method and a data signal recorded on the optical recording medium are detected from the first

group of light while a focusing error signal is detected from the second group of light, and

wherein the second optical separating means comprises:

a glass substrate; and

a step-shaped dielectric film formed on the glass substrate and positioned between the glass substrate and the optical detector,

wherein adjacent steps of the step-shaped dielectric film are of different lengths, to thereby output the first group of light being of a larger optical signal strength as compared to the second group of light.

20. (Canceled)